

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 NEA-10 ISO-00 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02

CIAE-00 CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 FEA-02 FPC-01 H-03

INR-10 INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01

SAM-01 SCI-06 SPC-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 DRC-01 /153 W
----- 107876

R 201630Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9815

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

1AMEMBASSY RANGOON 0636

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 2504

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENGR, IN

SUBJECT: ENERGY: FIRST INDICATION OF OIL IN BOMBAY HIGH

REF: A) NEW DELHI 1708 B) BOMBAY 0411 (NOTAL)

1. CONGEN BOMBAY CONFIRMS FEBRUARY 20 PRESS REPORTS THAT THE GOI-OWNED, AMERICAN-DESIGNED, DEEP WATER OFFSHORE DRILLSHIP, SAGAR SAMRAT, HAS STRUCK OIL IN THE BOMBAY HIGH. L.T. GARRETT, MANAGER, OFFSHORE COMPANY INTERNATIONAL, SAID THAT OIL HAS BEEN BROUGHT TO THE SURFACE IN WELL NO. H-1-1-1 (REF A), BUT CAUTIONED THAT IT IS STILL TOO EARLY TO PREDICT THE EXTENT OF THE OIL RESERVOIR OR WHETHER THE BOMBAY HIGH WILL PROVE TO BE A PRODUCING FIELD. GARRETT IS OPTIMISTIC, HOWEVER, AND ADMITTED THAT PRELIMINARY INDICATIONS "LOOK GOOD AT THIS TIME".

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2. GARRETT NOTED THAT THE FIRST SHOWING OF OIL OCCURRED IN

THIS WELL AT A DEPTH OF 3,156 FEET (962 METERS) DURING ROUTINE DRILL STEM TEST (DST) AND CONTINUED TO "FLOW FOR A SHORT WHILE" UNDER A HOLE-BOTTOM PRESSURE OF 500 POUNDS PER SQUARE INCH. PRELIMINARY SHIPBOARD LABORATORY TESTS SUGGEST THAT THE OIL HAS A API GRAVITY OF ABOUT 43.6 DEGREES, COMPARABLE IN QUALITY TO LIBYAN AND/OR ALGERIAN CRUDES. SULFUR CONTENT IS NOT YET KNOWN, HOWEVER. REPORTEDLY, CORES SUBSTANTIATE PRESENCE OF BOMBAY HIGH GEOLOGIC STRUCTURE WITH LIMESTONE AS THE OIL BEARING STRATA CURRENTLY UNDER TEST. GARRETT STRESSED THAT ADDITIONAL DRILLING IS REQUIRED IN THIS WELL TO (1) FURTHER PENETRATE THE STRUCTURE, (2) DETERMINE OIL/WATER RATIO, (3) ASCERTAIN GAS CONTENT, AND (4) ATTEMPT TO FURTHER ESTIMATE PRODUCTION CAPABILITIES AND ADDITIONAL DRILLING REQUIRED ELSEWHERE IN THE STRUCTURE.

3. WHILE MOST OF THE FOREGOING HAS BEEN IN THE PRESS, GARRETT ASKS THAT WE HOLD HIS REMARKS IN CONFIDENCE.

4. MOST OF THE FEBRUARY 20 INDIAN PRESS REPORTING REFLECTS THE FIRST HAND LOOK THAT THE OIL AND NATURAL GAS COMMISSION GAVE TO 12 JOURNALISTS FEBRUARY 14. THE GROUP FLEW BY HELICOPTER TO THE SAGAR SAMRAT, AND (ACCORDING TO GARRETT) WERE GIVEN AMPLE OPPORTUNITY TO ASK ALL QUESTIONS THEY WISHED-- WHILE ON THE RIG AND LATER DURING A DINNER PARTY HOSTED BY GARRETT. DURING DINNER, BOMBAY CONGEN AND DPO FOUND THAT THE JOURNALISTS WERE IMPRESSED FAVORABLY WITH GARRETT AND OTHER OFFSHORE COMPANY PERSONNEL, ONGC OFFICIALS, AND THE TRAINING OFFSHORE COMPANY HAS GIVEN TO INDIAN TECHNICIANS. SUBSEQUENT REPORTING ON THE ROLE OCCUPIED BY THE AMERICAN COMPANY HAS BEEN COMPLIMENTARY -- EVEN IN THE PATRIOT.
MOYNIHAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: OFFSHORE DRILLING, PETROLEUM INDUSTRY, OFFSHORE OIL FIELDS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974NEWDE02504
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740221/aaaaatasc.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A) NEW DELHI 1708 B) BOMBAY 0411 (NO, TAL)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 JUL 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <23 JUL 2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ENERGY: FIRST INDICATION OF OIL IN BOMBAY HIGH
TAGS: ENRG, IN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005